of India and others and it exists only in case of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The OBCs falling under the Creamy Layer have been excluded from the benefits of reservation policy of the Central Government. No such concept exists in case of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes. Statistics regarding percentage of OBCs excluded from the benefits of reservation because of application of Creamy Layer concept are not maintained.

Prematric Scholarships

70. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Government are bearing 100 per cent of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children to those engaged in unclean occupations like scavengers, flayers and tanners in Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details of the scholarships given during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the amount of scholarship to each student in different UTs;

(c) the number of scholarships proposed to be given during the year 2005-06 in different UTs and the criteria for selection; and

(d) how it is ensured that the scholarship is utilized for the purpose *i.e.* the beneficiaries actually pass out matriculation standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) 100 per cent central assistance over and above the committed liability is provided to the Union Territories under the scheme of Pre-Matric scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.

(b) Under the scheme scholarship ranging from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 75/- per month for day scholars from class I to X and from Rs. 300/- to 375/- per month for hostellers from class III to X are provided. Besides, a lump sum annual grant of Rs. 550/- and Rs. 600/- is also given to day scholars and hostellers respectively.

A sum of Rs. 8.46 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh were released to Pondicherry Administration as scholarship to 1615 and 1780 students during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. No Central assistance was released to other UTs during the aforesaid period.

(c) Children of Indian Nationals, who are engaged in unclean occupations *i.e.* scavenging, tanning and flaying etc., pursuing pre-matric courses are eligible for scholarship. There is no restriction as to the number of children of the same parents who would be eligible for award of scholarship up to class VIM subject to the condition that if a third or subsequent child is born after 1-4-1993, a total of only two children in the family would eligible for award of the scholarship. In respect of classes IX & X, only two children of the same parents are eligible for the award of the scholarship.

Funds under the scheme are released on the basis of the proposals received from the concerned States/UTs. No proposal has been received from the UT Administrations for the year 2005-06 so far.

(d) The utilization of central assistance released in the previous year is obtained from the States/UTs to ensure its proper utilization before releasing further Central assistance.

Classification of heart patients as disabled

71. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Court of Delhi has given a ruling that persons suffering from heart ailments are entitled to the benefits of the Disabilities Act for the purpose of employment, income, etc. by giving a wider meaning to the term "Disability".

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of amending the above Act in the light of the above ruling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its Judgement dated 16.5.2005 in W.P. No. 3890 of 2003 (Kumar Bharat Prasand Narain Singh Vs. Airports Authority of India) has also hoped that an amendment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 would be considered expeditiously.

(c) The matter is being examined for taking necessary action in this regard.